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"Nuts!"

"If the West is resolute, then I believe that the Soviet Union—by hook or crook—will be the one to back down."
Robert Amory, Jr., assistant director, U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.

If we may safely judge by the ideas advanced to date by President Eisenhower and other national leaders, there seems little likelihood that the United States will "back down" on the Berlin crisis. And while there have been some differences concerning implementation of the Western policy toward Berlin, there also appears little disunity among the member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in the matter of general policy.

Mr. Amory's statement, quoted above, was made in a South Carolina speech last month. He expressed at that time the opinion that the Russians "haven't got what it takes rationally to challenge us this spring" and that Premier Khrushchev "expects to force us to chicken out."

To that opinion has been added one from the American hero of World War II, Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, whose terse reply to the Nazis at Bastogne in the winter of 1944-45, will be forever recorded in American historical lore. At that time the general's reply to a Nazi surrender demand was:

"Nuts!"

And the general, no longer in military service, is of the opinion that the time has come to use similar terse and succinct language in dealing with the Russian threat. He thinks we should say "Nuts!" to the Russians. And the sooner the better.

This is perhaps an oversimplification of the matter, but it merits consideration. There is little doubt that the Russians would like to take over all of Berlin in the hope of consolidating it with East Germany as an entity. The economic prosperity of West Berlin is an obvious thorn in the Russian side.

But despite all their palaver, we hold generally to the opinion that the Reds are waging long-range "cold war" with recurrent crises aimed at upsetting Western equilibrium. Mr. Amory's opinions seem to uphold that contention. He, in the language of the diplomat, says we should be "resolute."

Gen. McAuliffe says we should tell the Russians:

"Nuts!"

Same thing.

CPYRGHT